



## Pawpaw

In Search of America's Forgotten Fruit

Andrew Moore

Foreword by Michael Twitty

\$26.00 • Hardcover

6 x 9 • 320 pages

ISBN 9781603585965

**Pub Date: September 15, 2015**

**For media inquiries contact  
Shay Totten**

stotten@chelseagreen.com  
802.295.6300 ext.125

**For author events contact  
Kirsten Wilson**

kwilson@chelseagreen.com  
802.295.6300 ext.126



“No fruit has captured the imagination of the forager community in the past twenty years like the pawpaw. With this at once serious and joyful account of the resurrection of an odd and storied fruit, Andy has given its seekers both a guide and a mandate.”

— **Michael W. Twitty, culinary historian, from the Foreword**

This fruit has been memorialized in folk songs, poems, and with dozens of place names from Georgia to Illinois. It is the largest edible fruit native to the United States and tastes like a cross between a banana and a mango, but chances are you've never heard of it, let alone bit into one. What is it?

The pawpaw.

The pawpaw grows wild in twenty-six states, gracing Eastern forests each fall with sweet-smelling, tropical-flavored abundance. Historically, it fed and sustained Native Americans and European explorers, presidents, and enslaved African Americans, and its trees are an organic grower's dream, requiring no pesticides or herbicides to thrive, and containing compounds that are among the most potent anticancer agents yet discovered.

In *Pawpaw*, author Andrew Moore takes readers on a journey through the past, present, and future of this unique fruit, traveling from the Ozarks to Monticello; canoeing the lower Mississippi in search of wild pawpaw; drinking pawpaw beer in Durham, North Carolina; tracking down lost cultivars in Appalachian hollers; and joining a harvest in a Maryland orchard. Along the way, Moore gathers pawpaw lore and knowledge not only from the plant breeders and horticulturists working to bring pawpaws into the mainstream (including a man known as “Johnny Pawpawseed”), but also regular folks who remember eating them in the woods as kids, but never since.

Moore also plumbs deeper questions about America's food ways—how economic, biologic, and cultural forces combine to lead us to eat what we eat, and sometimes ignore the incredible, delicious food growing within reach.

And, if you haven't yet eaten a pawpaw, after you digest Moore's infectious prose, you'll soon be seeking out the nearest pawpaw patch.



**Andrew Moore** grew up in Lake Wales, Florida, just south of the pawpaw's native range. A writer and gardener, he now lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was the news editor and a feature writer for *Pop City*, a weekly news e-magazine in Pittsburgh, and his stories have been published in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *The Daily Yonder*, and the *Biscayne Times*. *Pawpaw* is his first book.

<http://media.chelseagreen.com/pawpaw/>